



HEALTH ADVISORY #57

***Mycoplasma pneumoniae* Outbreak in Gilmer County, West Virginia**

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Local Health Departments, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: November 14, 2011

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

An outbreak of pneumonia due to *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* has recently been confirmed in Gilmer County, West Virginia. As of November 3, 2011 there were 27 confirmed cases, and 3 of those cases required hospitalization. An outbreak of pneumonia and upper respiratory illness has been reported from Calhoun County as well.

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is a leading cause of pneumonia in school-age children and young adults. It is transmitted by respiratory droplets and close contact with an infected person. The incubation period can range from 1-4 weeks. Symptoms include fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, malaise and chest discomfort. Radiologically confirmed pneumonia develops in 3-13% of cases. Treatment with macrolide antimicrobial agents such as erythromycin, azithromycin and clarithromycin is preferred for children younger than 8 years of age. Tetracycline and doxycycline are effective and may be used in children 8 years of age and older.

Outbreaks or clusters of pneumonia should be ***immediately*** reported to your local health department or the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-423-1271 (www.dide.wv.gov) in order to assist with monitoring the scope of this outbreak.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information to the targeted audiences noted.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.